two or more robotic manipulators, each robotic manipulator having at least one controlled degree of freedom;

one or more controllers that controls each of the respective robotic manipulators;

an instrument holder connected to each robotic manipulator that attaches a first surgical instrument to each of the respective robotic manipulators; and

a voice recognition system coupled to the controller, the voice recognition system permitting the surgeon to specify desired motions of the first surgical instrument to the one or more controllers so that each of the respective robotic manipulators moves each of the first surgical instruments to a position relative to the patient's body as specified by the surgeon using the surgeon input device.

38.   The system of claim 37, wherein the voice recognition system further permits the surgeon to select commands or operating modes from menus.

39.   The system of claim 37, wherein the speech synthesis system to provide the surgeon with voice messages containing information about the operation of the system.

40.   The system of claim 37, wherein one of the first surgical instruments is a surgical camera and the speech synthesis system provides a message to the surgeon stating information about the movement of the surgical camera.

41.   A system of claim 37, wherein one of the first surgical instruments is a surgical camera and the speech synthesis system provides a message to the surgeon stating information about the movement of the surgical camera to effect a zoom operation of the surgical camera.

42.   The system of claim 37, wherein the first surgical instruments each comprise any one of the following:

a surgical tool;

a forceps;